



CHAPTER 4 VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

STATE OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN SCOTLAND 2019

WHAT IS THIS CHAPTER ABOUT?

This chapter is about protecting children from being hurt or treated badly. This includes physical harm (to your body) and emotional harm (to your mind). One example that the chapter looks at is parents or carers who smack their children.



WHAT DID THE COMMITTEE SAY?

The Committee said that Scottish Government must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them. This includes passing laws that say no violence against children is allowed.

WHAT HAS SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DONE?

Scottish Government has done some things to help make sure children are protected from violence. Most recently, Scottish Government changed the law so that from November 2020 parents and carers won't be allowed to smack their children.



WHAT DO CHILDREN THINK?

Children say that physical punishment makes them feel upset and angry. They say it can affect the relationship they have with their parents or carer who looks after them. Children say that protective, supportive parents and carers make them feel happy and safe.

Children have also said they want to make sure they get at least the same protection from violence as adults. They say it's unfair for children to have less protection.

"...If you get hit as an adult, you can charge for assault, but not with a parent hitting a kid. That's not fair."

"It hurts and it's painful inside - it's like breaking your bones."

WHAT NEXT?

The new law is an important change and Scottish Government needs to make sure people know about it. Scottish Government also needs to support parents and carers to learn about better ways to support their children and help them with their behaviour.

WHAT DOES TOGETHER THINK?

All forms of violence against children are wrong. Together supports the change in the law to make sure children get the same protection from violence as adults.



WHAT ELSE IS TALKED ABOUT IN THIS CHAPTER?

- ★ Children being restrained at school – this means someone holds them so they can't move
- ★ Bullying
- ★ Harmful things that particularly affect girls, such as being forced to get married at a young age

If you want to see the full chapter, you can find this [here](#).